(c) whether Government will consider to review the excessive bills being issued to the consumers on account of the faulty equipment at Narwana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. The existing telephone exchange at Narwana was installed during 1988-89. It has not yet served the prescribed useful life.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such problem of excessive billing on account of faulty telephone exchange equipment has come to notice.

Illegal Telephone connections in Northern India

2520. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1209 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st December, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government have so far received the final report of the CBI on the fraudulent out of turn telephonic sanction orders issued in Northern India during 1992;

(b) if so the action taken by Government in respect thereof indicating details in each case; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether CBI have registered any fresh cases of fraudulent out of turn telephonic sanctions given during 1993 in the country the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The final report of the CBI is awaited. The case is still under investigation and the CBI have been reminded to expedite the investigation.

(c) No, Sir.

Development of Telecom Sector

2521. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons that inspite of the increased investment in telecommunication sector and policy initiatives of Government of India lag far behind other countries in terms of availability and level of service;

(b) what steps Government have taken to overcome the problems of slow growth and improve the functioning of the Sector, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that people employed in DOT felt that creation of Mahanagar Telecom Nigam Limited had resulted in a duality in the Organisation as employees of M.T.N.L. got Rs. 100 extra over the DOT salaries; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to settle the unrest resulting from this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The growth of the telecom sector is commensurate with the investment. However, to reach the availability and level of service of the developed countries the resources needed are manifold. The Department has now drawn a Perspective Plan upto the year 2000 A.D. to provide telephones on demand and improve services by induction of modern technology equipment in the network. The Planning Commission has approved raising of additional financial resources required for the proposed expansion to overcome the problem of slow growth and improvement in the services.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has appointed a committee to go into these aspects.